

THE FARMER.

FARM MANAGEMENT.—It is an interesting subject for inquiry, why different men with the same opportunities, variously fail or succeed, after years of equal labor. One will become rich, the other poor, on the same piece of land. One has had continued prosperity, and doubled or tripled his capital. The other has met with nothing but difficulty, misfortune, and "hard times." Instead of increasing his capital, he has become heavily involved in debt. His farm has run down and diminished in value. Altogether, he has come to the conclusion, that except with a lucky few, farming is a very hard, slavish, non-paying occupation.

His successful neighbor on the other hand, has adopted a very different opinion. His crops are good, with scarcely an exception—his fences impenetrable—his fields without a weed—his farm-buildings and barnyards, models of neatness—his cattle and sheep richly marked with improved blood, in fine condition, and eagerly sought in market at high prices—his fruit trees are bending under their rich loads, and his dwelling and door-yard a gem of rural beauty. He has "not quite yet" concluded to give up the business of agriculture for feverish speculation, nor for the close, pent up, and anxious life of city trade.

There is no lack of examples of both of these kinds of farming. The writer knows two men, now under fifty, who began active life in farming at about the same period—the first with very little property, the other with a beautiful hundred-acre farm. The first in less than twenty years had accumulated enough to buy seven hundred acres of the best land in that fertile region, and his average nett profits were between four and five thousands dollars a year. The other, with the fine hundred-acre patrimony, has worked equally hard, but he has not an acre left him, and was insolvent.

PROTECTING YOUNG FRUITS.—Hardy as well as tender strawberries should be covered for winter, because if hardy they will make an earlier start, and ripen their crops sooner; and if tender will often escape destruction. Coarse litter is good, but evergreen boughs are better. Trimmings of nursery trees spread over the bed and covered with straw, make a good protection and give the plants more air. The cultivated raspberries and blackberries need protection, where the largest and earliest crops are desired. The latter may be most readily covered with two inches of earth, first bending and pegging them down; and to prevent breaking, making a small mound of earth against the foot of the stems, of which only five or six of the best should be left in each stool.

FATTENING FOWLS.—If it is desired to fatten fowls in a very short time, they should be confined in small coops. Baily says:—"A coop for twelve fowls (Dorkings) should be thirty inches high, three feet long, and twenty-two inches deep; it should stand about two feet from the ground, the front made of bars about three inches apart, the bottoms also made of bars about an inch and a-half apart to insure cleanliness, and made to run the length of the coop, so that the fowl constantly stands, when feeding or resting, in the position of perching; the sides, back and top may be made the same, or the back may be solid." Some writers think it better to make half of the floor a little inclined, and to cover it with a board. Troughs for food and water should be fastened around the edge of the coop, and the whole placed in an out-building,